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Description of the Invention

Applicant's invention relates to materials having a decorative or artistic appearance having two or more layers each having a principal color, where the observed color of at least one light transmitting layer, when viewed along said edge, appears different than its principal color.

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending, and stand finally rejected.

Claim 31 has been cancelled.

Election

Applicant confirms election of Group I, Claims 1-30, and has canceled claim 31 – the only non-elected claim.

35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-8, 12-13, 18-19, 21, and 27-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Oshima et al (US 6,103,345). The references fail to teach all of Applicant's claim elements, thus no *prima facie* case of anticipation is presented. Specifically, the references fail to teach an article comprising two layers, that when viewed along an exposed light transmitting edge appears different than its principal color.

The Oshima reference is a single layer sheet that has parallel striped patterns adhered to the surface. Applicant's application claims an article having two or more layers. The parallel striped patterns are not layers. A single layer decorated sheet does not anticipate an article of two or more layers.

The Oshima reference is to a decorative sheet with color tone or colors that are changeable with the angle of observation "on at least one of the front and rear surfaces" (col 2, line 7). The effect of the Oshima reference, and shown in Figures 2 and 3 "can be seen brightened when the sheet is observed at such an angle that light passing through the spaces between the stripes provided on the rear surface passes through the stripes

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provided on the front surface" (Col 1, lines 44-48). The Oshima reference describes an effect seen on the front or rear surface of the sheet. Applicant's claim an effect seen only on one or more edges of an article. A surface effect does not anticipate an edge effect.

Since the Oshima reference fails to teach both a multi-layer article or an edge effect, it fails to anticipate Applicant's claims.

35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 9-11, 14-17, 20 and 22-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by Oshima et al (US 6,103,345) in view of Lecoeur et al (US 3,940,523). The references fail to teach or suggest all of Applicant's claim elements, thus no *prima facie* case of obviousness is presented. Specifically, the references fail to teach or suggest an article comprising two or more layers having a principal color, that when viewed along an exposed light transmitting edge appears different than its principal color.

First there is no motivation to combine the two references. The Oshima reference is to a single layer with stripes on one or both sides, while the Lecoeur reference contains at least 5 layers. There is no motivation to combine references teaching such a disparate number of layers, and indeed such a modification of a single layer by a 5-layer structure would render the prior art unsatisfactory for its intended use (MPEP 2143).

More importantly, the cited references describe only effects related to the faces of a sheet – not to the edge effect, and claimed by Applicant. Moreover, there is no teaching or suggestion in either reference of Applicant's claimed effect of each layer having a principal color, and the article, when viewed from the edge appears different than its principal color.

Since neither reference alone or combined (though there is no motivation to combine) teach or suggest the decorative or artistic appearance claimed by Applicant: an edge effect in which the edge appears different than the principal color of the layers of the article.

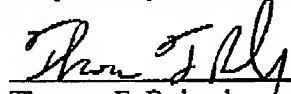
Conclusion

The references cited, either alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest all of Applicant's claim elements and claim limitations, and therefore fail to present a *prima*

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facie case of anticipation or obviousness over Applicant's claims. For the above reasons the present claims are believed by the Applicant to be novel and unobvious over the prior art, thus the claims herein should be allowable to the Applicant. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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